

For immediate release

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U.S. House of Representatives put troops first with the passage of funding bill

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Sires supported H.R. 3326, the fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill, which passed the House by a vote of 400 to 30. The bill contains many key investments that support our troops and their families, while improving our defense capabilities.

“In this bill, we increase pay for military personnel, we provide funding to ensure that our troops get exceptional medical care, and we fund programs that help support our military families,” said Congressman Sires. “I was pleased to support legislation that makes needed investments at home that will protect our men and women abroad, and commits to reducing our reliance on contractors.”

As passed by the House, the bill includes nearly \$30 million for first class medical care, providing support for critical medical research on various diseases, as well as support for programs that help injured troops. The bill supports military families by fully funding Family Support and Yellow Ribbon programs. It also provides funding for military equipment, such as shipbuilding initiatives, military helicopters, communication systems, and other vital elements of our national security. For ongoing military operations, the bill would provide funding for U.S. forces overseas and support provisions to begin withdrawal from Iraq. The FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill now awaits consideration by the Senate.